



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Every Child By Two Visits North Dakota** *Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter Promotes Immunizations*

BISMARCK, N.D. – Former First Lady of the United States Rosalynn Carter and former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers will promote the importance of childhood immunizations in a day of activities in the Grand Forks area today.

In 1991, the former first ladies founded Every Child By Two (ECBT), an organization that strives to raise awareness of the critical need for timely immunizations and for a systematic method of ensuring the immunization of all American children by age 2.

“We are honored to welcome Rosalynn Carter and Betty Bumpers and their Every Child By Two organization to North Dakota,” said First Lady of North Dakota Mikey Hoeven. “We in North Dakota cherish our children and know that childhood immunizations are one key to becoming a healthy, productive adult.”

During the North Dakota event, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Bumpers will visit the Manvel Migrant School near Grand Forks, N.D., to view a demonstration of the North Dakota statewide immunization registry and to read a story about immunizations to the school children. Following the visit, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Bumpers will attend an immunization luncheon at the North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, N.D. Other guests include First Lady Mikey Hoeven; Dr. Michael Brown, mayor of Grand Forks; Dr. Stephen Cochi, director of the National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Dr. Terry Dwelle, North Dakota state health officer, North Dakota Department of Health.

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At the luncheon, several individuals and health organizations will be honored for their significant contributions to immunizations in North Dakota. (A list of award winners is included below.) In addition, 27 public health units and private clinics throughout the state will receive awards for achieving childhood immunization rates higher than 90 percent in 2003.

“At 83.9 percent, North Dakota’s immunization rate is seventh in the nation,” Dwelle said. “Although the majority of North Dakota children are immunized, we must continue our efforts to immunize every North Dakota child. Unfortunately, too many of our children still suffer unnecessary vaccine-preventable diseases, such as whooping cough and chickenpox.”

After the luncheon, the former first ladies will visit the Grand Forks Air Force Base Child Development Center to learn about the military immunization program and registry. They also will talk with children and spouses of deployed family members.

For more information about the Every Child By Two visit, contact Heather Weaver, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.3386; or Kathy Dunn or Debbie Swanson, Grand Forks Public Health, at 701.787.8100.

#### **Immunization Award Winners**

- *Policy and Advocacy Award* – Senator Judy Lee, West Fargo, N.D.
- *Communication Award* – Dr. Angela Erdich and Dr. Sandeep Patel, Indian Health Service, Belcourt, N.D.
- *Champion Award* – Kathy Dunn, Grand Forks Public Health, Grand Forks, N.D.
- *Community Responsiveness Award* – Barbara Andrist, Upper Missouri District Health Unit, Crosby, N.D.
- *Innovation Award* – Altru Health System, Grand Forks, N.D.
- *Best Practice Award* – Altru Pediatric Clinic, Grand Forks, N.D.
- *Best Practice Award* – Medcenter One Q & R Clinic, Bismarck, N.D.
- *Best Practice Award* – Fargo Family Health Care Center, Fargo, N.D.
- *Collaboration Award* – Greater Grand Forks Immunization Coalition, Grand Forks, N.D.
- *No Missed Opportunities Award* – Minne-Tohe Health Center, New Town, N.D.

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